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BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
BOSTON
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1951



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR J. HENRY MOUNTAIN, *Chairman.*

ALDERMAN A. BRADLEY, *Vice-Chairman.*

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR J. P. ROE, J.P.

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„ MRS. D. J. C. MOWBRAY, J.P.

„ E. C. STANWELL

„ MRS. E. M. VALENTINE.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :
W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :
G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :
S. DAVEY, M.S.I.A.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :
G. FOX

Chief Clerk :
D. DADY.

BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Borough and on the work of the Public Health Department during 1951.

As will be seen from the various statistics on the following pages health conditions continue to give cause for satisfaction. The Crude Birth Rate for the year is 17.4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 16.9 in 1950, whilst the Crude Death Rate of 11.4 is a decrease on the figure of 13.3 for the previous year. Once again there have been no deaths from maternal causes.

Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox were the most common notifiable diseases occurring in the Borough and only in the former condition was the incidence appreciably higher than in the previous year. It is very satisfactory to report that once again no cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. This is undoubtedly due to children being immunised at an early age and it is strongly urged that parents will continue to take advantage of the excellent facilities available.

Although Housing is still a major problem it is very gratifying to note a considerable increase in the number of houses completed, and it is to be hoped that existing legislation will encourage local authorities and private builders alike to tackle this problem with renewed vigour.

The West side of Boston has long been in need of a proper sewage disposal system and the commencement of the West Side Sewerage Scheme should be considered an urgent necessity. The need is becoming more apparent owing to the increasing density of the population and parts of the land gradually becoming sewage sick. A comprehensive sewage disposal scheme is the only remedy to prevent serious nuisances arising in the future.

It is pleasing to note that traders are still steadily responding to the Clean Food Campaign, and in this respect I should like to see still further response both from traders and the public to ensure it's continued success.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation and courtesy shown to me by the Mayor and Members of the Council, and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. E. Chamberlain, and all other Officials of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SMEATON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8 Bridge Street,
Boston, Lincs.

July, 1952.

PART I

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

GENERAL STATISTICS :—

Area (in acres)	3,259
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1951)	24,300
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1951 (according to the Rate Books)	7,289
Rateable Value	£137,374
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£543
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House	3.3
Estimated average number of Persons per Acre	7.4
Average number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	2.2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC. :—

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS :—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) ..	17.4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)	17.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	38.5
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	11.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	10.6
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	30.7
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	30.1
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	38.5

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

(a) All infants, per 1,000 live births	21.2
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	20.1
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	38.5

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

In the foregoing comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General, and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :—

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for mid-1951 was 24,300, a decrease of 720 on the figure given for 1950, namely, 25,020. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 146.

BIRTHS :—

A total of 424 live births (204 males, 220 females) were registered during 1951. This figure gives a crude birth rate of 17.4 per 1,000 of the population, and an adjusted rate of 17.3. Both figures are increases on those for last year which were 16.9 and 16.8 respectively, and are also higher than the rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1951, namely 15.5.

The number of illegitimate live births was 26 (9 males, 17 females) which is 6.1% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1950 was 27.

STILLBIRTHS :—

There were 17 stillbirths registered (10 males, 7 females) giving a stillbirth rate of 38.5 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, as compared with 25.3 in 1950.

Taken as a rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, a figure of 0.69 per 1,000 is arrived at, which is slightly higher than the figure given by the Registrar-General for the whole of England and Wales, namely 0.36.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

It is satisfactory to note that there were again no deaths from puerperal causes assigned to the Borough in 1951.

INFANT MORTALITY :—

There were 13 deaths of infants under one year of age (5 males, 8 females). The death rate of 30.7 per 1,000 live births is the same as that for 1950, and compares favourably with the rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 29.6.

The total number of infant deaths under 4 weeks of age was 9 (4 males, 5 females) giving a death rate of 21.2 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 25.9 in 1950.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough was 278. This figure gives a crude death rate of 11.4 per 1,000 of the population, and an adjusted rate of 10.6. Both figures show a decrease on the rates for last year which were 13.3. and 12.4 respectively.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1951 was 12.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOSTON M.B., 1951.

No.	Cause of Death					Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	4	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	1	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	4	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	..	..	..	..	4	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	10	4
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	..	..	..	—	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	14	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	13	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	2	5
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	28	28
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	11	3
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	6	3
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	8	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	3	—

No.	Cause of Death				Males	Females
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	5	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	..	..	..	—	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	7	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	1	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	12	18
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	..	..	..	1	2
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	2	—
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	1	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	—	—
ALL CAUSES					143	135

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following particulars regarding weather conditions during 1951 as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston :—

January :—The first four days were very cold with much snow. From then on temperatures rose slowly and the remainder of the month was mild and generally rainy until the 26th, when a rather cold dry spell set in with low day and night temperatures. Mean maximum temperature of 43.3°, average 41.1°. Mean minimum 33.5°, average 31.7°. Rainfall 3.16'', average 1.62''. 19 days of measurable rain, 3 days with a trace. Heaviest rain in one day .60'' on 1st and 5th. 25 ground frosts and 11 air frosts.

February :—Another wet month with rainfall above average. Somewhat cold with many night frosts. Snow fell in small amounts on seven days. Mean maximum temperature at 43.6° and mean minimum at 33.4° were about average. Rainfall 3.01'', average 1.46''. 19 days of measurable rain and 4 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .51'' on the 16th. 22 ground frosts and 9 air frosts.

March :—A month of almost continuous rain. Generally cold with much ground frost and 5 days when light snow fell. Mean maximum temperature 46.3°, average 49.8°. Mean minimum 34.4°, average 34.7°. Rainfall 3.10'', average 1.56''. Measurable rain fell on 23 days. Heaviest fall in one day .58'' on the 21st. 19 ground frosts and 12 air frosts.

April :—Rain continued every day until the 14th, when there was a temporary respite. Dry conditions prevailed until the 27th, when a cold spell with frosts and a little snow occurred until the end of the month. Except for a short spell (23rd to the 25th) when it was warm, 71° being recorded on the 24th, the month was cold. Mean maximum temperature

52.4°, average 57.1°. Mean minimum 37.4°, average 39.6°. Rainfall 2.44'', average 1.35''. Measurable rain fell on 17 days and a trace on 3 days. Heaviest fall in one day was .60'' on the 9th. There were 12 ground frosts and 1 air frost.

May :—Another wet and cool month. Except for two short breaks, rain was prevalent until the 26th, when fine and sunny conditions set in. Mean maximum temperature 57.4°, average 62.1°. Mean minimum 43.1°, average 43.3°. Rainfall 2.85'', average 1.76''. Measurable rain fell on 15 days and 6 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .49'' on the 19th. There were 3 ground frosts.

June :—The fine dry weather which set in late in May continued until the 9th, when unsettled and rainy conditions prevailed until the 13th. Another short fine spell was broken on the 19th, when it was cool and showery until the 26th. Mean maximum temperature 65.6°, average 67.3°. Mean minimum 47.5°, average 49.1°. Rainfall .90'', average 1.82''. Measurable rain fell on 9 days and 7 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .38'' on the 9th.

July :—A generally fine and warm month. Only on one day did the temperature reach 80°, but 70° or over was recorded on 22 days. Mean maximum temperature 72.2°, average 70.8°. Mean minimum 53.4°, average 53.3°. Rainfall 1.14'', average 2.20''. Measurable rain fell on 11 days and 5 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .35'' on the 20th.

August :—The month opened with fine warm weather until the 4th, but from then until the end of the month much rain fell. Bank Holiday Monday provided the year's wettest day 1.26'' of rain falling. Mean maximum temperature 68.9°, average 70.0°. Mean minimum 52.0°, average 52.7°. Measurable rain fell on 17 days, and 5 days with a trace. Total fall 3.41'', average 2.39''.

September :—A comparatively warm month but with an excess of rainfall. A temperature of 77° was recorded on the 4th, and altogether there were 8 days of 70° or over. Mean maximum temperature 66.7°, average 65.8°. Mean minimum 51.3°, average 49.5°. Rainfall 2.11'', average 1.76''. Measurable rain fell on 14 days with a trace on 3 days. Heaviest fall in one day .93'' on the 27th.

October :—Normally the wettest month of the year, October shared with June the lowest rainfall—.90''. Measurable rain fell on only 9 days and 3 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .37'' on the 22nd. Mean maximum temperature at 57.3° and mean minimum at 42.1° were about normal. Much fog prevailed and there were 4 ground frosts and 4 air frosts. There was a brilliant display of the Aurora on the night of the 28th.

November :—In violent contrast to October this month shared with August as being the wettest of the year with 3.41'' of rain against the average of 2.00''. Measurable rain fell on 23 days and 2 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .76'' on the 24th. Temperatures were

much above normal, 59° being recorded as late as the 24th. Mean maximum temperature 52.5°, average 49.5°. Mean minimum 41.8°, average 38.5°. There were 4 ground frosts and 2 air frosts.

December :—A much drier month with rainfall below normal, 1.20'' against the average of 2.15''. Measurable rain fell on 16 days and 3 days with a trace. Heaviest fall in one day .26'' on the 28th. The mean maximum temperature of 46.4° (average 44.5°) and mean minimum of 35.6° (average 34.9°) made the month comparatively mild. Very deep depressions crossing the country from the 27th caused winds of gale force to be recorded on the 27th and 28th. A rather sharp spell occurred from the 11th to the 13th, when very low ground minimums were recorded. There were 15 ground frosts and 8 air frosts.

The total rainfall for the year was 27.63'' against an average of 22.81''.

The following table gives a summary of the meteorological conditions of the area for the past two years.

	1951	1950
Rain days	192	187
Average humidity at 0900 hrs. G.M.T.	88%	85%
Mean day and night temperatures	49.0°	49.4°
Mean maximum temperature	56.0°	56.7°
Mean minimum temperature	42.1°	42.2°
No. of days with maximum temperatures of over 70°	51	57
No. of days with maximum temperatures of over 80°	2	7
Thunderstorms	12	25
Ground frosts	105	85
Fog at 9.00 a.m. observation	16	13
Snow, including sleet, days of	17	22
Gales, days of	5	8

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of milk, ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for examination and further details of this work will be found in Sections E and F.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, and Mr. W. W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Nottingham, have continued to carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :—

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department, Allan House, Carlton Road.

Four first line ambulances, including one of the most modern type, and five sitting case cars are based in the Borough. In addition an ambulance is kept at the Infectious Diseases Hospital and reserved solely for the conveyance of infectious cases.

It is not possible to give separate figures in respect of the Borough as these vehicles are also used for work in other parts of the County of Holland, but it can be stated that demands on the service have again increased during the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME :—

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :—

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS :—

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :—

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital — Orthopædic and Acute General.

Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Childrens' Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, Boston — Physiotherapy.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES :—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :—

The Chest Clinic, Venereal Diseases Clinic and Orthopædic Clinic are held at the London Road Hospital.

Clinics operated in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services for Ophthalmic and minor defects are held at the Health Centre, London Road.

The Cleansing Station continues to function at the Health Centre, and further details with regard to the arrangements for the treatment of Scabies will be found in Section F of this Report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :—

No action was taken by the Council under this section during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :—

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, these services are provided by the Holland County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :—

1. STATISTICS.

(A) **Rainfall.** The rainfall recorded at Revesby Waterworks during the year was 29.32" as against 30.61" in 1950 and 20.16" in 1949. The average rainfall at Revesby over 40 years is just over 25". The corresponding figures for Fordington are 30.03", 30.68" and 22.01".

(B) Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington and received in bulk from Boston R.D.C. with comparisons for 1950.

Year.	Thousands of gallons.			Total	Average G.P.D.
	Revesby.	Fordington.	From Boston R.D.C.		
1951.	232,867	210,764	8,129	451,760	1,238
1950.	225,991	209,661	5,711	441,363	1,209
Increase	6,876	1,103	2,418	10,397	29

The average gallons per day may be subdivided as follows :—

	Thousands
(a) In bulk to Horncastle and Spilsby R.D.C.'s	102
(b) Domestic and meter supplies in the rural districts of Boston, Spilsby and Horncastle, within the Council's Statutory Area of Supply	105
* (c) Domestic supply in the Borough of Boston	700
* (d) Trade and other meter supplies in Borough	331
	<hr/> 1,238 <hr/>
* (c) represents (including waste) 28 galls. per head per day.	
* (d) represents (including waste) 13 galls. per head per day.	
	<hr/> 41 galls. per head per day. <hr/>

As a matter of interest, the average daily consumption in 1939 was 674,000 gallons.

*A waste detection scheme is in operation for the whole Statutory Area of Supply.

(C) Pressures.

Pressures in the town mains have definitely improved, arising from the booster plant installation at Horncastle Road and general improvements in the distribution system, but despite this it must be admitted that pressures, especially during peak periods, are sub-standard. A storage tank has been installed on the roof of the new Grain Silo at the Dock and an improved pressure afforded in the Dock area. An endeavour will be made to extend the area of supply from this tank. Consumers generally are always encouraged to install the maximum amount of storage possible.

(D) Extensions of Mains.

As will be seen from the list of main extensions and renewals, considerable activity continues in the Water Department. A large number of new services have been connected, and a considerable amount of internal work undertaken by local plumbers, all to the benefit of public health. Modernisation of the distribution system continues and special attention is always directed to housing needs in the Borough and Rural Districts, and rural water main extensions to meet agricultural requirements within the Council's Statutory Area of Supply.

WATER MAINS LAID IN BOROUGH DURING 1951.

Extensions.

	Location	Dia. & type of pipe	Length yds.	Remarks
(i)	Market Place/Church St./ Church Close	6" A.C. 6" C.I.	122 66	Part Norfolk St./ Market Place link main
(ii)	Spilsby Rd. & Wainfleet Rd. (Mill Hill to Burton House)	6" C.I.	1425	
(iii)	Strait Bargate (Mitre Lane/ Silver St. link)	4" A.C.	66	Distribution improvement
(iv)	Carlton Road Housing Site	4" A.C.	370	
(v)	do.	6" A.C.	338	
(vi)	Fenside Road	6" C.I.	515	
(vii)	Skirbeck Rd./Fyde Rowley/ Church Road	6" A.C.	461	Link mains
(viii)	Station Street/Lincoln Lane	4" A.C.	248	
(ix)	High St. (Doughty Quay/White Horse Lane)	3" A.C.	150	Improvements to meet present and future needs in district.
(x)	Bayswood/Elmwood Avenues (off Wyberton Low Road)	4" A.C.	74	
(xi)	Wellington Corner	6" C.I.	92	
(xii)	do.	4" C.I.	20	
(xiii)	Queen's Road (Bargate Bridge end)	4" C.I.	37	For housing and future bulk supply needs
(xiv)	Boston Dock/Grain Silo	4" A.C.	430	
(xv)	Wyberton Low Road	6" C.I. 6" A.C.	511 393	
(xvi)	Rochford Crescent	3" A.C.	63	

5,381—3.05 miles

Renewals.

	Location	Dia. & type of pipe	Length yds.	Remarks
(i)	Wide Bargate	6" C.I.	325	Replaces 2½"
(ii)	Bank Street	4" A.C.	140	„ 2" & 1½"
(iii)	Horncastle Road	4" A.C.	433	„ 2½" Rider
(iv)	Charles St./Muster Roll Lane/ Daisy Dale	4" A.C.	555	„ 1½"
(v)	Shodfriars Lane	3" A.C.	83	„ 2"
(vi)	Grand Sluice Lane	4" A.C.	93	„ 1½"
				1,629—.93 miles

(E). Quality of Water.

- (i)a Except for a period last Autumn when the water in certain parts of the **Borough** distribution network was not up to the usual standard (referred to in iv.), the water supply of the area has been, in my opinion, satisfactory in quality.
- (i)b The quantity of water available has been generally satisfactory, although it is admitted water pressures during 'peak periods' are sub-standard.
- (ii) **Monthly samples** of the raw water and treated water passing to supply at Revesby and Fordington are submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological analysis. No adverse report has been received. Copies of all reports are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, who in turn supplies me with copies of reports received in respect of samples taken from the town mains at frequent intervals.
- (iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) As stated under E(i)a. Despite heavy chlorination at the Revesby source (12 miles north of Boston) and maintenance of a minimum of 1.5 p.p.m. residual chlorine in the water passing to supply, the absorption in the mains was so great that no residual was left by the time the water reached the Borough boundary. One of the pumping mains is over 100 years old and badly incrustated. Considerable main laying work and re-organisation of the distribution system was in progress last Summer and Autumn, and despite normal routine precautionary measures, samples taken by the Sanitary Inspector revealed that the water in the Borough was not up to standard, a number containing B.Coli and Faecal Coli. The usual measures were taken, systematic flushing of mains intensified all over the Borough, and emergency chlorination applied at the Horncastle Road Booster House. The Public Analyst—Mr. W. W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C. of Nottingham and Dr.Croll of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council, Lincoln, were consulted, and purely as a precautionary measure the public were advised to boil water for domestic purposes. Eventually the contamination cleared and it is not possible to point definitely to the cause of the trouble.

- (v) The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small and mainly confined to the old parts of the town.

A small percentage of the approx. 7,000 houses are without a piped water supply.

A survey is being made and it is hoped to give precise details under (v) in the next report.

(Signed) D. H. BALL,

April 21st, 1952.

Borough Water Engineer.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(a) Lincoln Lane Pumping Station, including the laying of a new 15" diameter sewer and 7" diameter pumping main, designed to relieve stormwater surcharge in the Station Street Area, completed except for pump installation.

(b) Routine maintenance and sewer cleansing carried out.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES.

House refuse is collected at fortnightly intervals. Salvage collections again improved and waste paper collections increased from 553 tons in 1950 to 687 tons in 1951. Pig food collections were 1,130 tons. Total income from waste paper and pig food amounted to £12,103.

SWIMMING BATHS :—

Attendances at the Swimming Baths continued to be at a high level throughout the season.

Samples of water were regularly submitted for analysis and with one exception the water proved to be of a satisfactory quality. This sample was taken from the covered bath during July and as a result it became necessary to close this bath for a short time until it had been drained, cleaned and refilled, when a further sample proved to be satisfactory.

Notwithstanding all attempts to render the water safe by heavy chlorination and constant vigilance, the present system of water purification is very unsatisfactory in so far as it is totally obsolete. It is hoped that economic considerations will not overrule the great need for a swimming pool with modern facilities.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :—

(a) Rodent Control :—

The department continues to employ two men on this work and as a result it has been possible to carry out treatments in a much larger number of premises. It is interesting to note that in spite of this the number of bodies recovered has decreased, indicating that generally the degree of infestation is less. If this trend is maintained it will fully justify the cost of this service.

	No. of premises treated	No. of bodies recovered
1950	531	1672
1951	925	1386

(b) **Verminous Houses :—**

The number of premises treated for vermin is as follows :—

Bed Bugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Fleas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cockroaches, Ants, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :—

The report of the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of this report.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—

Three premises are registered as Common Lodging Houses and of these one has been fairly well managed. The other two have been troublesome owing to repeated vermin infestation.

Application was made for the registration of a fourth Common Lodging House but this was refused by the Council. An appeal was made to the Petty Sessional Court but the Council's decision was upheld.

FACTORIES :—

The following tables give particulars of the visits made to factories during 1951. The number of defects found was small and in no case was it necessary to resort to statutory action to remedy the defects.

Inspections.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	5	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	10	Nil	Nil
Total ..	78	5	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	8	8	Nil	2	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient ..	2	2	Nil	2	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	4	Nil	2	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ..	15	14	Nil	7	Nil

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES :—

There are 17 outworkers' premises, 16 of whom are engaged in pea picking. All the premises have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition and no action has been necessary to maintain the desired standard.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected in the Borough during the year :—

(a) By private enterprise	17
(b) By the Council	houses 57 flats 68

Number of Houses under construction at the end of 1951 :—

(a) By private enterprise	11
(b) By the Council	houses 58 flats 24

INSPECTIONS :—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

977

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose..	1847
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	60
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	223
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	954

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	141
--	---	-----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	13
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	19
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	2

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	38
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	59
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

Overcrowding records are incomplete and out of date and no accurate figures can be given.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :—

This important work is still carried out under considerable difficulties. The slaughterhouse has inadequate hanging space and slaughtering is carried on at inconvenient hours.

The figures in the accompanying table show that the percentage of animals suffering from disease has varied little from the previous year but the number of whole carcasses that have been condemned has decreased noticeably, indicating that the severity of disease in individual carcasses has decreased.

Meat Destroyed.

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total
Carcases whole with offal ..	58	2	95	155
Forequarters	21	1	1	23
Hindquarters	2	—	—	2
Plucks	—	19	417	436
Heads and Tongues	301	5	86	392
Livers	474	1	—	475
Lungs	380	—	—	380
Intestines	271	5	514	790
Miscellaneous	240	65	1370	1675
Meat	17cwts. 26lbs.	59lbs.	2cwts. 5lbs.	19cwts. 90lbs.

Total weight of meat condemned : 39 tons, 12 cwts., 88 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1554	674	157	4307	2877
Number inspected	1554	674	157	4307	2877
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases con- demned	13	9	7	2	80
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	410	157	11	49	916
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	27.2	24.6	11.5	1.2	34.6
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases con- demned	12	16	1	—	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	201	169	1	—	84
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	13.7	27.4	1.3	—	3.4

MILK AND OTHER FOODS :—

Regular inspections are carried out of all premises dealing in food and of places where food is prepared. Generally a satisfactory standard is maintained but few premises reach a very high standard. Many premises suffer from lack of space but generally proprietors are anxious to carry out improvements and in several instances it has been possible to assist in obtaining licences for much needed alterations.

Details of the inspection of food premises will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. It has not been necessary to take any action under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

FOOD POISONING :—

Five cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, two of the patients being members of the same family. In no case was it possible to recover any samples of the suspected foods and the results of specimens of faeces submitted for bacteriological examination proved to be negative. All the patients recovered within a few days.

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 :

Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air came into operation on the 25th September, 1950, and have now been in operation for well over a year. Contraventions have been few and have generally been due to ignorance rather than intent. Shortage of suitable wrapping paper has been the most serious trouble but the majority of traders have made a very good attempt to overcome this. It has not been necessary to take action against any traders as all contraventions have been dealt with by verbal warning.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN :—

During the year under review no special measures were taken to forward the Campaign apart from the distribution of Codes of Practice for Housewives which, with the co-operation of the Food Executive Officer, were distributed with the new ration books. As much time as possible was devoted to the routine inspection of food premises and the subject of food hygiene was discussed with food traders and their employees. The results have not been spectacular but steady progress can be reported, much of it behind the scenes and therefore not noticed by the general public. During the year 4 new Clean Food Certificates were issued.

ICE CREAM :—

On the 1st March, it became necessary for ice cream manufacturing machinery to be equipped with recording thermometers and several local manufacturers, sooner than entail the expense of these instruments, either changed over to the "complete cold mix" process or ceased to manufacture and obtained supplies from outside the Borough. There was an increase of six in the number of retailers, and there has been a further increase in the amount of wrapped ice cream. The following table shows the results of samples submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Test.

Prov. Grade I	Prov. Grade II	Prov. Grade III	Prov. Grade IV	Total
39	11	15	1	66

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table I shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Diphtheria :—It is very gratifying to report that there were again no cases of Diphtheria occurring in the Borough during the year.

Chicken Pox :—During the year 284 notifications were received as compared with 206 in 1950. The majority of the cases occurred during the period April—August.

Whooping Cough :—The high incidence of this complaint resulted in 264 cases being notified during the year. This figure was the highest for several years, and was a considerable increase on that for 1950, namely 31.

Measles :—A total of 113 cases were notified as compared with 826 in 1950. This represents a substantial decrease although it must be borne in mind that the 1950 incidence was very high as a result of the heavy epidemic which was prevalent in the Borough.

Scarlet Fever :—There was a decrease in notifications, 22 cases being reported as compared with 53 in the previous year. 5 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia :—The number of cases notified increased from 16 in 1950 to 24 in 1951. There was one resultant death.

Acute Poliomyelitis :—The only notification received during the year was a Paralytic case which occurred during December. The patient, a male aged 5 years, was removed to hospital where the diagnosis was later confirmed.

Scabies :—The number of cases notified was 3, the same as that for 1950, and in each case treatment was provided by the patient's own doctor.

If necessary, the Holland County Council undertakes the treatment of cases of Scabies occurring in the Borough, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Corporation. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, arrangements in force ensure that details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive treatment as early as possible.

Table I.
Notifiable Disease during the Year 1951.

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis : (Paralytic)	1	1	1	Nil
Chicken Pox	284	284	1	Nil
Dysentery	1	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	5	4	4	Nil
Food Poisoning	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	113	113	2	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	24	24	12	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	8	Nil
Scabies	3	3	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	22	22	5	Nil
Whooping Cough	264	264	1	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS :—

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, Central Lincolnshire Chest Unit.

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Table II.
TUBERCULOSIS.
Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	3	6	1	—	—	—	1	—
25—35	1	6	—	1	1	2	—	—
35—45	5	5	—	—	3	2	—	—
45—55	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	12	18	4	2	5	5	1	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

All arrangements in connection with immunisation within the Borough are under the control of the Holland County Council.

The following figures, supplied by the County Health Department, give details of the number of immunisations carried out during the year.

Children under 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	276
Children 5—14 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	51
Children given a secondary or reinforcing injection	..	..				355

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1951.

The two most important sections of a Sanitary Inspector's work are housing and food inspection and I shall therefore confine my remarks to these two subjects. With respect to housing, 1951 was notable on two accounts. First, for the appreciable increase in the number of houses built and secondly for the fact that in this year a start was made on our first post-war Clearance Area. This Area consisted of six houses on the river bank in Stanbow Lane and they were in such a bad state that the Lincolnshire River Board refused to accept the responsibility of piling the bank while the houses were occupied. Thus, to assist another body to carry out a much needed improvement to the town, slum clearance was re-started. I hope that with the improvement in the rate of house building it will be able to proceed with added impetus.

The inspection of food premises has occupied a great deal of our time and I am happy to report that the large majority of food traders are doing their utmost to provide the public with clean food. Unfortunately, the slaughterhouse, controlled by the Ministry of Food is not a shining example in this respect. The premises are inadequate, principally due to lack of good hanging space and too much reliance has to be placed on casual labour so that the majority of the work is done in the evening and speed appears to be more important than first-class workmanship. These conditions are due to a combination of circumstances and perhaps at present it is not possible to alter them. Certainly the Ministry of Food are aware of the conditions which are not pleasant for the men who have to carry out the work nor for the meat inspectors who have had to work many hours of overtime both in the evenings and on Sundays.

To close on a happier note, may I express my thanks to the Public Health Committee for their continued support and the patience with which they deal with my reports and to all my colleagues, particularly the Medical Officer of Health and the staff of the Health Department for their co-operation and helpfulness.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS :—

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	173
Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	702
		—	875

Re-inspections.

Under the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	544
Under the Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	372
			—	916

Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	153
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	10
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	15
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	174
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	71
Prepared Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	77
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	50
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	41
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	60
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	21
Food Shops and Premises	..	..	..	..	..	143
Market Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	158
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	78
Factories Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	13
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	33
Slaughterhouse and Meat Depot	..	..	..	..	..	679
Rat Infestation	..	..	..	..	..	16
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	..	11
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	16
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	84

Total 3,694

Samples Taken.

Water

Public Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	184
Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
						—	248

Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Drains and Sewers.

Drains Tested	41
Drains Cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sewers Cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	300

OFFICE WORK :—

Informal Notices.

	Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936	96	78
Public Health Act, 1936	67	55
Dustbin	40	39

Statutory Notices.

	Served	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	13	21
Public Health Act, 1936	27	48
Dustbin	9	9
Conversions	2	3

PREMISES DISINFECTED :—

Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED :—

Total number of complaints received	460
-------------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

The following are details of complaints received and remedied :—

Defective Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	3
General Housing Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	75
Defective W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	..	19
Bugs	..	..	..	..	..	7
Fleas, beetles, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	12
Wasps nests	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	94
Choked drains	..	..	..	..	..	17
Choked sewers	..	..	..	..	..	147
Choked street gullies	..	..	..	..	..	1

Complaints received and remedied—*cont.*

Flooded cellars	6
Smoke nuisance	1
Other nuisances	35
Defective yard paving	2
Cesspools	4
Overcrowding	12
Miscellaneous	23

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :—

Chickens	2
Cowsheds	1
Factories	1
Pigs	2
Slaughterhouses	1
Stables	2

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR :—

Defect	No. found	No. Remedied	
		(a) Informally	(b) By Statutory Action
Roofs	39	25	19
Chimneys	11	7	1
Pointing of external walls	9	4	1
Gutters and down pipes	52	35	25
Boundary walls or fences	9	8	2
Wall plaster	26	17	10
Ceiling plaster	11	8	7
Doors and door frames	9	5	3
Windows and window frames	18	15	7
Sash cords	—	—	1
Floors (solid)	9	10	1
Floor boards	8	7	1
Skirtings	1	1	1
Firegrates or ranges	28	19	8
Treads and risers	2	3	—
W.C. roofs	1	—	—
W.C. walls	2	—	1
W.C. doors and door frames	4	3	—
W.C. pans	9	7	4
W.C. flushing cisterns	18	11	10
W.C. flushing pipes	13	9	7
Yard and passage paving	5	3	24
Drains	25	12	14
Dustbins	39	39	10
Water supply	5	4	3
Sinks	3	4	—
Sink waste pipes	2	3	—
Coppers	3	3	—
Cesspools	9	7	—

Other Items.

WATER :—

The following tables give a summary of the results of the bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of water samples taken during the year. With one or two exceptions all the Class III and IV samples were obtained during the period in which the supply to part of the town was below the usual standard. This episode is fully dealt with by the Water Engineer in another part of this report.

Bacteriological.

Class I	Class II	Class III (suspicious)	Class IV (unsatisfactory)
108	11	22	31

Chemical.

Satisfactory	Quality not up to usual standard
9	3

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

PART II
BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Year ended 31st December, 1951

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ended 31st December, 1951.

To :— The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Boston, being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1951. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

During the year the trade of the Port continued to be very brisk and there were satisfactory increases in the amount of both foreign and coastwise shipping. As a result a total of 801 vessels entered the Dock as compared with 708 in 1950. The nature of the cargo traffic continued to be much the same as in previous years, whilst there were also only a few alterations in the list of foreign ports from which vessels arrived.

As will be seen from a perusal of the Report, the Health Administration continues to function in a satisfactory manner, and in this respect it is gratifying to report that there were again no diseases of an infectious nature.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to all concerned for the co-operation and assistance they have given me throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. SMEATON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8 Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.
March, 1952.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ended 31st December, 1951.

TABLE A.

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

		Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign	Steamers	59	32,925	15	31	10	9	Nil	Nil
	*Motor	425	63,721	30	76	15	9	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign		484	96,646	45	107	25	18	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	Steamers	50	9,066	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	*Motor	267	33,333	14	22	7	7	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise		317	42,399	14	25	7	7	Nil	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise		801	139,045	59	132	32	25	Nil	Nil

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	Cabin	Trans-migrants
Inwards	Nil	Nil	106	Nil
Outwards	Nil	Nil	83	Nil

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :—

Grain	Telegraph Poles	Fruit & Vegetables	Basic Slag
Deals	Flour & Feeding Stuffs	Petroleum	
Battens & Boards	Potatoes	Bulbs	
Sleepers	Fertilisers	Paper	

The Principal Exports are :—

Grain	Potatoes	Coal
Sugar	Fireclay	General Continental Goods

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.

Finland	Sweden	Holland	Germany	Canada
Abo	Gefle	Colijnsplaat	Bremen	Digby (N.S.)
Hamina	Göthenburg	Due Bommel	Hamburg	
Hango	Kalix	Haarlingen		Eire
Haukipudas	Karlshamn	Hansweert	Norway	Cork
Helsinki	Kopmanholmen	Maasluis	Arendal	
Jacobstad	Norrköping	Middleharnis	Christiansund	Corsica
Kasko	Norrsundet	Rotterdam	Porsgrunn	Ajaccio
Kemi	Ortviken	St. Anna Land		
Kotka	Skutskar	Zierikzee	Belgium	
Kristinestad	Stugsund		Antwerp	
Lapaluoto	Sundsvall	France	Ghent	
Lovisa	Visby	Bayonne		
Mantyluoto		Bordeaux	Russia	
Raahe	Spain	Rocheport	Archangel	
Rafso	Almeria	Roscoff	Mesane	
Raumo	Burriana	Rouen		
Sornas	Carthagen	Treport	Egypt	
Toppila	Valencia		Alexandria	
Uleaborg				

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

2. Hydrants and Hosepipes. Precautions taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health :—

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms, which, after completion, are returned to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival :—

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock Gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention. (Wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Customs Officers, etc.) :—

Each week, detailed lists of infected ports are extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record, and forwarded to the Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs for the information of Pilots and other Officers concerned. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

Communication by radio telephone is available between the Dock Master's Office, Lock Head, and the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : "Port-helth, Boston" is registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10 :—

- (a) **Within the Docks** : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.
- (b) **Outside the Docks** : The Quarantine Station—"Clay Hole"

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14 :—

Nil.

6. Experience of working Article 16 :

It has not been necessary during the year 1951 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :—

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination :

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

(b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other Articles :—

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

During the year facilities for the disinfection of bedding, etc., continued to be available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium, but in 1952 it is proposed to bring into operation a Disinfecting Station equipped with a chemical disinfectant.

(c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations :—

Such accommodation is available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

(d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other Infectious Diseases :—

Cases occurring under this heading are sent to Laceby Hospital.

(e) Ambulance Transport :—

A motor Ambulance is provided by the Holland County Council. To deal with cases of smallpox from ships, ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants are provided by the Isolation Hospital, Laceby.

(f) Supervision of Contacts :—

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is

situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague :—

Such examinations are arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations :

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned Laboratories :—

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.
(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).
- (b) The Laboratory, Boston Group Hospital Management Committee, General Hospital, South End, Boston.

10. Information as to the Location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-Patient Treatment ; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen :—

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient Treatment is available at the Clinic, London Road Hospital, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the clinic are as follows :—

Tuesdays 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
and 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with by the Grimsby Hospital Management Committee.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of Dead :—

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. **Other matters, if any, requiring or receiving attention :—**

There are no items to report under this heading.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year 1951		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year 1951		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred during the year 1951 and no plague infected rats were discovered ; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague :—

(a) In Ships in the Port :—

Inspections are carried out by the Port Sanitary Officer.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the Port :

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore :—

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide " mushrooms " on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

3. Methods of Deratisation of :—

(a) Ships :—

The normal method is trapping. Poisoning is occasionally used and if infestation is so heavy as to warrant immediate fumigation, arrangements are made through fumigation contractors at Grimsby. As Boston is not an approved Port for the issue of Deratisation Certificates it has not been considered necessary to make any other arrangements for the complete fumigation of ships.

(b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays :—

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Prebaiting is carried out at regular and frequent intervals and is followed by any other necessary action.

4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore :—

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examinations of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

5. Rat-proofing :—

(a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof ?

The Fruit Shed (South side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the North side of the Dock are of concrete.

(b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing :—

i. **In Ships**, any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. **On Shore**. the existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1951.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Brown	—	—	2	3	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	10
Species not recorded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

TABLE F.
(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year
Black	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2*
Brown	6	10	—	9	16	8	—	15	9	17	—	—	90*
Species not recorded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

*These figures relate to bodies recovered. It is estimated that as a result of poisoning a further 455 rats were killed during the year.

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague “infected” or “suspected” Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total Number of such Vessels arriving (1)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂ (2)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Rats killed (3)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Vessels such fumigated by HCN (4)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Rats killed (5)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed (6)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Rats killed (7)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out (8)	.. .. .	Nil

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This table is inapplicable as Boston is not an approved Port.

Three ships were found to have out-of-date certificates and their Masters were instructed to renew them as soon as possible. Where their next port of call was an Approved Port in England the Port Health Authority was warned of their estimated time of arrival.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.
Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	28	Nil	2	5
Other Nations ..	104	4	11	18

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :—

The principal food imports were grain, flour, feeding stuffs, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and pears.

No action under the above Regulations was necessary during the year but several tons of onions and small quantities of pears were voluntarily surrendered for condemnation.

2. Shell-fish :—

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1951, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :—

(a) Bacteriologist	Nil
(b) Analyst	Nil

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